

SEP 19 1921

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AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Photoplay in six reels.

From Adelaide Hailbron's adaptation of the  
play by Ernest Klein.

Scenario by Edfrid A. Bingham

Directed by Penrhyn Stanlaws

Author, Famous Players Lasky Corporation of  
the U. S. as employer for hire

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Terence O'Day, once a fellow of an Oxford college, of good birth and high ambitions, has succumbed to the power of the East to lure, to captivate and then to break; and is now the languid and cynical proprietor of "The Paper Lantern," a semi-disreputable cafe' and gambling house in Shanghai. The only tie that binds him to the past and to the future is his daughter Cherry (Betty Compson), whose mother died when Cherry was a baby, and who has been reared in the atmosphere of the gay resort, her father had educated her to a certain extent, and he has firmly implanted in her mind one precept and rule of conduct: "Men are beasts. Fool them to your heart's content, but keep them at arm's length." He is quite sure that Cherry can take care of herself; and her daily experiences in the cafe seem to affirm that confidence. Cherry's character is a commingling of innocence and sophistication; she is saucy, insolent and charming, using her physical charms to help make her father's resort alight, yet keeping all men at arm's length, and possessing finer qualities still dormant. She reigns like a queen in the tinsel brightness of the resort, which is a gathering place nightly of people of every land and every tongue, enticed there by curiosity or for dissipation.

Donald McGregor, second mate of a trading schooner, drops into the Paper Lantern while on shore-leave. He is primitive in emotions, thoughts and actions; deeply religious; and inexperienced with women. He falls in

instantly with Cherry, and she "feels him to her heart's content." A kiss carelessly given Donald means to him a premise, and he leaves to return in a year, fully expecting that Cherry will be his wife. She promptly forgets all about him.

Gordon Deane, wealthy, clean, wholesome; a traveller and writer, comes to the Paper Lantern. Cherry sees in him the first man she has ever met in whose clear eyes there is no trace of desire for her; loves him; and shows the possible awakening within her of a different creature from the "Carmen" of the cafe. Deane, not realizing her love, and interested only in her beauty, charm and child-like rapture over his stories of adventure, promises to call again, but is called away suddenly, before he can see her, and sends her a note of regret. This is a bitter disappointment to Cherry, and, deeply hurt, she flings herself into the gay life of the cafe with more recklessness than ever.

William Blaine, cultured, cosmopolitan roué, has arrived in Shanghai as the head of a chartered bank. Friends take him to see The Paper Lantern. He recognizes in O'Day a friend of their college days; meets Cherry; becomes instantly desirous of her; and offers her a trip to Europe with his sister, who is returning there for some months. Cherry is eager to go, but sees the grief on her father's face, and declares she will not leave him - never!

In the midst of this discussion, there is a row in the gambling-room adjoining - a quarrel over cards. O'Day rushed in to stop the row, and is killed by one of the disputants - a dissipated youth who blames O'Day and Cherry for his ruin. Cherry, soon after the tragedy, being left alone, accepts the offer to travel with Blaine's sister. On her return, Blaine, balked by her steadfast remembrance of her father's teaching - "at arm's length", finally offers her marriage. In gratitude for what he has done for her, she reluctantly accepts him.

But Shanghai society knows her history, and puts the worst possible construction upon it. She is snubbed by the women, and treated with galling familiarity by the men. Blaine, angered by it all, and held to Cherry only by her beauty and physical appeal to him, blames her for the embarrassing position, in which he, a man of importance in business and society, is placed. Cherry is very unhappy.

Into this situation comes Harvey Allen, of good family, but weak and foolish - a clerk in the Blaine bank. Infatuated with Cherry, he harasses her with his attentions, which she ignores, as she has ignored the attentions of all others in her new sphere, until, maddened by her husband's taunts, she one day reverts to the old Cherry of The Paper Lantern, and in sheer abandon begins playing with Harvey, as she used to play with men -- but "at arm's length." Harvey, thinking he must have money to lavish upon Cherry, steals bonds from the bank (entirely without Cherry's knowledge or encouragement), and speculates in silk. The theft is discovered, and Blaine, on account of Harvey's family, gives him twenty-four hours to make good the amount stolen, or go to prison.

Just at this time Gorden Deane drops into Shanghai again, ready to write his book of travels, and in a spirit of adventure accepts a position as a guard in a lighthouse in a God-forsaken place "at the end of the world," where he can have all the quiet and solitude he wants for his writing, in inspiring surroundings. And now his path and Cherry's cross again, in Shanghai society. Her love for him is instantly revived, with added poignancy because of her unhappiness. Seeing her now a woman of poise, culture, and even greater charm, Deane's interest is slightly quickened, yet he feels no real love for her. She chides him about his broken promise, and he agrees to make good by calling on her at her home.

There, just as Cherry is trying with all her heart to win Deane's liking and attachment, Harvey bursts in upon them, appealing cravenly to

try to intercede for him with her husband. Deane, before retiring quickly to another room to wait, hears enough to persuade him that Cherry had ruined the young man wantonly. Cherry, furious lest Harvey may have convicted her in the eyes of Deane, tells Harvey, truthfully enough, that she has never returned his love, and could do nothing for him with her already dissatisfied husband; and so dismisses him to his fate. Deane, when Cherry comes to him where he waits, discredits her explanations, tells her that he is going at once to save Harvey, and abruptly leaves her, fully convinced that she is a wanton and unscrupulous trifler with men. Cherry stands heartbroken amid the ruins of her dreams.

Deane makes good Harvey's theft at the bank, and offers to take Harvey with him to the lighthouse at the end of the world, there to forget Cherry and make a man of himself. Harvey accepts; and now Deane wants a third man of his own choosing, in order that the three guards may be congenial. He goes to the shipping offices on the water-front in search of the third man,

Meanwhile, Donald McGregor has returned to The Paper Lantern to claim Cherry; has learned of the tragedy, and Cherry's marriage; believes that she was forced into the marriage; gives up his berth on the schooner; and haunts the Paper Lantern, held by a semi-religious conviction that Cherry will come back to him one day. But the new proprietor of the resort grows tired of Donald's glum figure always there, and orders him away from the place. In despair at last, Donald decides to go to sea again, and in a shipping office Deane, struck by his manly appearance and his honest, serious look, offers him the third place at the lighthouse. Donald accepts.

At the lighthouse, Deane tries to make a man of the weak but well-intentioned Harvey, and is apparently succeeding. Harvey confesses that Cherry was really not to be blamed for her treatment of him -- that he,

ny, was a cad, trying to hide behind a woman's skirts. Deane is convinced that he was mistaken about Cherry, and thinks of her a little longingly. Then Donald McGregor tells his story to Deane, who is thereby again filled with distaste and repugnance toward the man-wrecking girl of the cafe and the cruel woman of society, as he now believes her to be.

In Shanghai, Blaine, feeling his position slipping, maddened by the story of Harvey that has leaked out, asks Cherry to consent to a divorce. She agrees with alacrity, and, the divorce granted, and having enough money left by her father to enable her to refuse Blaine's generous offers of support, Cherry starts out deliberately to find Deane.

The schooner on which she has started for the lighthouse, from the port nearest to the distant, isolated place, is wrecked by a storm when about to reach the island on which the lighthouse stands; goes to pieces on the rocks nearby. All on board are lost except Cherry, who is rescued by Deane, at night, while Donald is on duty tending the light, and Harvey is asleep. Deane, at first sight of her face, learns that he loves her; and when, on her recovering consciousness, she frankly tells him she came to find him, he remembers Donald's story and all he has heard about her.

Harvey, awakened at last by the storm, breaks in upon Deane and Cherry. In this trying moment, he acts the man, and begs Cherry's pardon for having behaved like a cad. This straightens out the Harvey matter, and Cherry's dream of winning Deane is revived.

But Deane informs her of Donald McGregor's presence in the lighthouse, and that he knows the man's story. Cherry's dreams crumble again. She declares Donald is nothing to her, and that she never promised to marry him. Deane quietly informs her of Donald's religious convictions, which are all bound up in his love for her, and advises her either to tell Donald that she does not love him or to "go through with it."

Donald comes down the stairs, and Deane hurries out, leaving Cherry

L Donald to face each other. Donald, amazed at sight of his beloved, first kneels and thanks God for the miracle. Then he tells Cherry that God has sent her back to him. Cherry, terrified and awed, is unable to struggle as Donald clasps her in his arms. But fear clutches at her heart while Donald's face is illumined with religious frenzy, mingled with his love for Cherry.

Harvey swiftly reverts to his former self, maddened again by his desire for Cherry, and pursues her. Donald sees this, and becomes furiously jealous of Harvey. Cherry appeals to Deane for help, trying to win his love and sympathy and becoming genuinely contrite and ashamed of her past selfishness. Deane, now fully in love with her, but loyal to Donald, and held firmly to duty in keeping the light burning at all cost, counsels her again and again either to tell Donald the truth or to "go through with it." Cherry, in her desperate appeal to Deane, brings on a situation that arouses Donald's jealousy of Deane in turn. Donald become almost a maniac, suspicious of Harvey and Deane, watching Cherry by day and night. Deane, bound to keep the light in the tower burning, to hold his companions to their duty and responsibility, and to prevent a tragedy, finds all his power put to the test.

The tragedy, in spite of all his efforts, arrives. Cherry one night bravely resolves to tell Donald that she cannot marry him. Thinking that Donald is on duty in the light room, she creeps up there. But the regular change in hours of watch in the light room has escaped Cherry's notice--and she faces Harvey instead of Donald. The man beast in Harvey is aroused at sight of Cherry, alone with him in the room at the top of the tower. He seizes her in his arms. Cherry's incautious outcry brings up Donald, who leaps on Harvey with maniacal fury. In the battle, the two break through the door that leads to the balcony of the tower. They struggle against the railing, which breaks, and they fall, locked in each other's arms, to their

h. Cherry tries to save them both, and is in turn just saved from failing after them, through the broken railing, by the arrival of Deane, roused by Cherry's shrieks.

Blaming herself for the tragedy, in spite of Deane's assurance that it was inevitable, Cherry "finds herself", here true self, in sharing with Deane the responsibility for the light; and Deane sees in her at last the really fine-natured girl who gazes in child-like wonder into his eyes that night long before, at The Paper Lantern, when first they met. When the lighthouse tender arrives with relief guards, Deane and Cherry return to civilization and a new beginning.

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